Size: 4,660 acres
Mission: Provide depot-level aircraft and engine repair
HRS Score: NA
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: Metals, VOCs, and SVOCs
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $134.3 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $93.7 million (FY2019)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2004
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for Non-BRAC Sites: FY2004

San Antonio, Texas

Restoration Background

In July 1995, the BRAC Commission recommended realignment of Kelly Air Force Base (AFB). The Defense Distribution Depot, San Antonio, will be closed, and the airfield and all associated support activities will be attached to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Investigations have identified 54 sites and several areas of interest on base, including landfills, spill sites, former fire training areas, low-level radioactive waste sites, underground storage tanks, aircraft maintenance areas, sludge lagoons, sludge-spreading beds, and former ranges. Sites are separated into five zones: Zone 1; properties west of Leon Creek (to be realigned to Lackland AFB); Zone 2, south and west of the runway; Zone 3, industrial operations area; Zone 4, off-base area known as east Kelly; and Zone 5, flightline, warehouses, and administrative support operations (to be realigned to Lackland AFB).

Kelly is a joint-use base which uses both BRAC and Environmental Restoration Account funds to reach cleanup goals. For a basewide project, such as an Environmental Inpact Statement, the costs are evenly divided. Additional projects that are within defined boundaries are paid from the account affected.

A basewide groundwater and surface water monitoring program began in FY94. By the end of FY95, final reports had been prepared for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) phases for 41 sites in Zones 1, 2, and 3.

A BRAC cleanup team formed in FY96, and the first BRAC Cleanup Plan was issued. Construction was planned for stormwater culvert rerouting east of Zone 3. A draft groundwater compliance plan was prepared and is awaiting approval.

In FY97, a Zone 4 site was remediated, and the property leased to private industry. A source area was discovered in Zone 3 at Site MP. The final Zone 5 RI report and the Zone 3 groundwater decision document were submitted for regulatory review. Monitoring for natural attenuation parameters was completed.

FY98 Restoration Progress

A state groundwater permit and compliance plan were issued, establishing a dual RCRA and CERCLA/IRP regulatory framework for the installation. A contract was awarded for constructing an Interim Remedial Action (IRA) consisting of a hydraulic barrier for controlling contaminated groundwater flow from Zones 3 and 4. A groundwater treatment plant and an effluent polishing facility were built to reduce secondary treatment costs. Several IRAs and groundwater extraction and treatment systems were optimized. The installation completed additional field investigations for Zone 1 and a study to improve annual groundwater monitoring. Long-term operations and long-term monitoring optimization studies began.

RI/FS activities for Zone 4, FS activities for Zone 5, and groundwater monitoring at Zone 3 continued. Characterizations and delineation of off-base contamination for Zone 4 continued because contamination was found to extend to a greater area than anticipated. Planned completion of Remedial Actions (RAs) for soil in Zones 2 and 3 did not occur, because of substantial changes in the work plan. Additional confirmatory sampling and data analysis were done. No RA was selected for the downgradient plume, which will be addressed in the Corrective Actions Implementation Work Plan.

Arsenic-contaminated soil was removed from Site S-7 in east Kelly. A Removal Action began at a newly discovered source area, a spill site at the former metal plating shop. More than 1,000 gallons of dense nonaqueous-phase liquid was removed. Investigations concluded at the Site MP source area; the selected RA awaits regulatory approval.

Innovative technology demonstrations included electrochemical geooxidation at the former waste pit, natural attenuation for chlorobenzene at a former waste storage and disposal area, and sonic cone penetrometer for off-base groundwater contamination. A Technical Assistance for Public Participation application was developed and contracts were awarded. A Technical Assistance Visit to the installation resulted in more justifiable cost-to-complete figures and project schedules.

Plan of Action

- Begin construction on stormwater reroute project in FY99
- Complete the on- and off-base RI, and construct the IRA for groundwater, for Zone 4 in FY99
- Complete FS for Zone 5 in FY99
- Complete delineation/characterization for Zone 3 and conduct sampling in off-base area in FY99
- Complete Zone 2 and 3 RAs in FY99
- Install slurry wall for former metal plating shop in FY99
- Construct Quintana Road Culvert and install additional IRAs for groundwater in Zone 1 in FY99
- Complete construction of hydraulic barrier to control contaminated groundwater flow by FY00

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year